## THE SCIENCE OF NEW CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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In May 1945 the valorous Soviet Army freed Czechoslovakia forever from domination by Hitler. The free people of Czechoslovakia, led by the Communist Party, took the power into their own hands. The toilers of the republic enthusiastically undertook the task of wiping out the results of war, of reconstructing and developing industry, transport, agriculture, science and culture. But the peaceful creative work of our people was impeded by the machinations of Czech and foreign reactionaries seeking to wipe out the democratic transformation in the country, to return the country to the old, capitalistic order. The Czech people, at the fore with the Communists, did not permit this. The toilers of the republic rose to protect the new, democratic state and in February 1948 defended the future of their country from engulfment by internal and foreign reactionaries; firmly they took the path of people's democracy and socialism.

February 1948 also fostered the development of Czech science, after directing it along the new, socialist path.

Until recently all scientific research work in Czechoslovakia was conducted chiefly in the higher educational institutions.

As early as 1945, soon after the liberation, 7 new universities and institutes were opened. Between then and now the people's government has created 16 more higher educational institutions.

At the same time the first steps toward democratization of the higher educational institutions were taken. To make it possible for the children of the toilers to receive a higher education and to make scientific workers out of them, scholarships were set up in the universities and institutes for the students. However, until 1948 the children of workers and peashats comprised a negligible part of the student body. Bourgeoisism was still strong enough to preserve the class, bourgeois nature of the higher schools. The reactionaries used the outmoded autonomy of the higher educational institutions to accomplish this, making it easier for the representatives of political and scientific reactionary forces to get the administrative positions in them.

After February 1948 many reactionary teachers were removed from directorship and progressive scholars took on the responsibility of the further educational-upbringing and scientific-research work in the higher educational institutions. Great activity was displayed by the young scientific workers and students, who took part in committee movements formed among all faculties. These committees made many revolutionary transformations in the organization and scholastic procedures of the higher schools. For the first time in the history of Czech higher educational institutions students became members of academic senates and faculty councils.

The social makeup of the student body also changed essentially.

Young workers sent by plants and factories began to enter the
higher educational institutions. Soon after the February events,

during the solemn celebration of the six hundreth anniversary
of the founding of the oldest Czech higher educational institution—
Karlov University—it was evident that the development of Czech
science had taken a new direction in including service to the
people. The leader of the toilers of Czechoslovakia, Klement
Gottwald, said: "Karlov University has a glorious past, but it
will have an even more glorious future if it fulfills its
mission: to give the people as much of a real intelligentsia
as possible, a group which, together with the rest of the people,
will create conditions for a new, better life!"

Photo on page 39 of text: Professor Yan Mukarzhovskiy

Photo on page 40 of text: With great interest the young students and scholars of the republic study the Russian language. In the photo the students of Karlov University familiarize themselves with books on Russian literature and language.

From the very start of the reorganization of the higher educational institutions, the most attention was paid to awakening scientific initiative in the students. To do this the students of the higher educational institutions took part in socialist competition for the best collective or individual work on scientific topics. This method of mobilizing the creative powers of the youth was very effective.

Last year, following the example of the higher educational institutions of the Soviet Union, the system of chairs kafedry was introduced into the universities and institutes of our country. The chairs have made it possible to overcome the individualism of the old scholars, to set up close cooperation between the scientific workers, students and teachers, to systematize scientific work, to develop criticism and self-criticism, and, most important of all, to make it easier to ideologically reeducate the scientific workers in the spirit of the most progressive Marxist-Leninist world outlook.

The system of chairs is a great contribution by Soviet pedagogy to the development of science, which is having an active part in the building of socialism. One of the most important tasks of our chair holders in the near future will be the working out of new textbooks for teachers and students, expounding scientific discipline in the light of the achievements of progressive Czech scholars and Soviet science.

The chairs in Marxism-Leninism set up in all the higher educational institutions are of great assistance in educating scientific cadres. They are helping to make dialectic and historical materialism the basis of all our scientific works; they are helping to direct scientific acitivity along the only true path.

Following the example of the Soviet higher educational institutions, post graduate study, which deals with the planned education of cadres of young scholars, has been introduced into Czech universities and institutes.

Other institutions in Czechoslovakia besides the higher educational institutions are doing scientific research. Their purpose is to be of great benefit to the Czech people in re-

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solving the most important tasks in building socialism.

The law for the first Five-Year Plan for the development of the Republic of Czochoslovakia states, that "scientific re-. search, in particular technical, economic, social and medical, will aid the complete development of the national economy, the use of all kinds of sources, the purposes of economic systematization." This law decrees that "for the needs of scientific research, scientific work in research institutes will be co-ordinated, new scientific institutes will be built, and special attention will be given to the scientific education of the younger generation. At the same time attention will be focused on a close bond between study and practice. Scientific research will be conveniently concentrated, and sufficient funds will be provided for it."

Year Plan for the building of scientific-research institutes.

In addition, 2 billion korona will be set aside annually for all kinds of scientific work. Never before has Czechoslovakia had such funds designated for the development of science.

On 7 December 1949 the National Assembly adopted a law for the organization of scientific research and for a documentation service. Under this law a Central Administration of Scientific Research attached to the State Planning Administration was instituted, and the creation of central research institutes and institutes attached to the separate ministries, national and communal enterprises was provided for. Soon central institutes were set up in the following fields: biology, chemistry, physics, geology, mathematics, /polyarograficheskiy/, astronomy.

In this way a firm bases was provided for scientific work in the republic, affording the opportunity to plan various research projects and coordinate the efforts of individual institutes and scholars.

and Arts was raised in order that the tasks facing our science under the conditions of socialist building might be successfully carried out. Until recently this Academy was more of an honorary society than a scientific institution. Only recently were several institutes opened up in conjunction with the Czech Academy: mathematics, physics, Czech language and literature. However, because of their independent function these institutes did not exercise any influence on the structure of the Academy. The Slovak Academy of Sciences and Arts in Bratislava is distinguished by a more consistent organization of scientific institutes. In the near future no doubt a single Czechoslovakian Academy of Sciences patterned after the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union will be set up in our country.

Today scientific discussions on the fundamental problems of individual branches of learning are being held among our scholars. These discussions are helping to expose reactionary bourgeois theories, and are determining the basic, more real problems on which Czech scholars ought to work first. The conferences dedicated to the works of I. V. Stalin on knowledge of languages have been especially valuable. The progressive scholars of our republic, in their appearances at discussions, conferences, and in print, have emphasized the exceptional importance of these works by Comrade Stalin for the development of science.

The discussion devoted to the teachings of the great Russian physiologist, I. P. Pavlov, has also been of great benefit to our scientific workers in the field of natural sciences.

These discussions have clearly shown the unusual, increasing interest on the part of Czech scientifists in Soviet science,

Soviet scientific literature, and primarily the classics of

Marxism-Leninism. For 1950 alone the number of works of the classics of Marxism-Leninism published here increased 30 percent.

Stalin's Short Course in the History of the VKP (b) was published in 6 printings, with a circulation of 400 thousand copies, and his Problems of Leninism in 10 printings.

Scientific research in our country is answering the demands of people more and more; it is becoming more closely tied in with the practice of Socialist building. For example, here is what scholars in the field of medicine are doing. As early as 1948 we had a factory for the production of Penicillin. Thanks to the efforts of the scientific workers, it is now producing a preparation of much better quality than American penicillin. Scholar-doctors are looking for more effective methods of curing scarlet fever and other childrens' diseases; they are studying problems for increasing the efficiency of the workers. The chemist pharmacists are perfecting new preparations which are completely replacing those produced abroad. If before there was only one room for scientific medical experiments in Prague, now scholars have at their disposal a large clinic and scientific-research institute with branches in the chief industrial centers of the republic.

Progressive Czechoslovakian scholars are sharply protesting against kowtowing to Western culture. In recent years several discoveries were made in the field of history which prove not only how ancient Czech culture is, but also its freedom from Western influence. This was demonstrated by materials obtained from excavations at Prazhskiy Zemok and other places.

Czech science only recently started along the road to socialism. We still have a great deal of work to do, especially in the field of history, literature, and art. The introduction of the Marxist-Leninist principles of party spirit into science is aiding the development of these branches of knowledge.

In studying the cultural heritage of the Czech and Slovak peoples our basic criteria are the attitudes expressed in the works of Lenin and Stalin, books of Russian revolutionary democrats, Soviet scientific works.

Never before has our science has such serious and responsible tasks laid upon it as it has today. At the Tenth Conference of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, Comrade Vatslav Kopetskiy said: "Science has before it the best possibilities for its development. It is necessary only for our scholars to begin to work with a new spirit, with new methods, for them to be convinced, through the example of Soviet scholars, of the fact that there is nothing that cannot be done by the scientific method, of what marvelous things can be achieved and what unknown secrets can be unveiled, if only science masters the world contemplation of dialectic materialism, if it begins with Marxism-Leninism as 'the science of all sciences.' Science can advance very far and develop all around, if, in its activity,

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it is caught up by the desire to serve socialism and communism as effectively as possible and, for the happiness of mankind, to make man the master of the forces of production and nature."

Photo on page 41 of text: One of the halls of the library of Karlov University.

One of the principal tasks of Czech science to day is active participation in the fight for peace. The scientific workers of our republic were the first to turn to the Czech people with a call for them to unanimously express themselves for peace and voted for the Pact of Peace.

Photo on page 46 of text: The reading room at Karlov University.

Czech science is serving the people. Together with all the workers of the republic the scientific workers of our country, under the leadership of the Communist Party, are actively participating in the building of the bases of socialism, are making new progress in the development of science and culture.